

Chapter 3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Proposed Project

The proposed project is the amendment of the regulations for Marine Protected Areas in State Waters within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) established under the State's jurisdiction (Figure 3-1). The regulations are being considered for inclusion in the California Code of Regulations (CCR) to implement the State's policies for management of marine resources. Specifically, the Department of Fish and Game (Department) is recommending that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) establish new regulations (§632 Title 14, CCR, Appendix 2) regarding Marine Protected Areas, amend existing regulations (§27.82(a) Title 14, CCR, Appendix 2) regarding the boundaries of the Cowcod Conservation Area, and repeal existing regulations (§630(b)(5), §630(b)(101), and §630(b)(102) Title 14, CCR, Appendix 2) regarding ecological reserves with the following changes (Table 3-1):

- 1) A new system of Marine Protected Areas should be established consisting of ten State Marine Reserves where it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes; one State Marine Conservation Area where only the recreational take of spiny lobster (*Panulirus interruptus*) and pelagic finfish is allowed; and one State Marine Conservation Area where only the commercial and recreational take of spiny lobster and the recreational take of pelagic finfish is allowed;
- 2) The existing regulations for ecological reserves at Anacapa, Santa Barbara, and San Miguel Islands should be repealed to avoid duplication of the proposed new regulations below;

In general, existing regulations for the Marine Protected Areas in State waters within the Sanctuary provide the following:

Under existing law, three ecological reserves are established in the Sanctuary surrounding Santa Barbara, Anacapa, and San Miguel Islands. Special regulations on take are minimal in these areas and are limited to a small no-take "natural area" at Anacapa Island, invertebrate closures on Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands, and seasonal prohibitions on access to protect breeding marine mammals and nesting, breeding and fledgling seabirds on Anacapa and San Miguel Islands. Table 3-1 summarizes the existing regulations and proposed amendments.

Table 3-1. Summary of existing regulations and proposed amendments.

Existing Regulations	Proposed Amendments
<p>Anacapa Island Ecological Reserve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishes a Natural Area, where no take is allowed, in waters shallower than 10 fathoms on the north east side of East Anacapa Island - Establishes two invertebrate closures. These closures are in waters shallower than 20 feet on portions of the south side of West Anacapa Island and the north side of Middle Anacapa Island. -Prohibits the use of nets or traps shallower than 20 feet around Anacapa Island. -Establishes a brown pelican fledgling area, where no entry is permitted between January 1 and October 31, on the north side of West Anacapa Island. 	<p>Anacapa Island State Marine Reserve and Anacapa Island State Marine Conservation Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishes a State Marine Reserve, where no take is allowed, on the north side of East Anacapa and Middle Anacapa Islands. - Repeals the existing invertebrate closures. - Maintains the trap prohibition in waters shallower than 20 feet around Anacapa Island. - Maintains the brown pelican fledgling area seasonal closure. - Establishes a State Marine Conservation Area, where only the recreational take of lobster and pelagic finfish and the commercial take of lobster is allowed, on the north side of West Anacapa Island.
<p>Santa Barbara Island Ecological Reserve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishes an invertebrate closure in waters shallower than 20 feet on the east side of the island from Arch Rock to the southernmost point. -Prohibits the use of nets or traps shallower than 20 feet on the east side of the island from Arch Rock to the southernmost point. 	<p>Santa Barbara Island State Marine Reserve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repeals the existing invertebrate closure. - Repeals the existing net and trap prohibition. - Establishes a State Marine Reserve, where no take is allowed, in the vicinity of southeast Santa Barbara Island.
<p>San Miguel Island Ecological Reserve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establishes seasonal and year- round closures to boating on various parts of the island and offshore rocks. 	<p>Harris Point State Marine Reserve, Judith Rock State Marine Reserve, and Richardson Rock State Marine Reserve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maintains the seasonal and year-round boating closures. -Establishes State Marine Reserves, where no take is allowed, in the vicinity of: Harris Point, Judith Rock, and Richardson Rock.
<p>No Other Specific Marine Protected Areas are established in the project Area</p>	<p>The proposed project also establishes the following new Marine Protected Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Scorpion (Santa Cruz Island) State Marine Reserve. No take allowed. - Painted Cave (Santa Cruz Island) State Marine Conservation Area. Only recreational take of lobster and pelagic finfish is allowed. - Gull Island (Santa Cruz Island) Sate Marine Reserve. No take is allowed. -Carrington Point (Santa Rosa Island) State Marine Reserve. No take is allowed. - Skunk Point (Santa Rosa Island) State Marine Reserve. No take is allowed. - South Point (Santa Rosa Island) State Marine Reserve. No take is allowed.

Amendments

The modification of existing Marine Protected Area regulations and the addition of regulations establishing new Marine Protected Area may provide for continuation and improvement of effective management of California's marine resources in the project area. The Marine Reserve Working Group proposed a network of protected areas off-shore of the Channel Islands, in both state and federal waters. This project that is before the Fish and Game Commission proposed to achieve the goals of the Marine Reserves Working Group by implementing a network of marine reserves and marine conservation areas within the waters in the jurisdiction of the State of California (from the mean high tide line to a distance of three nautical miles offshore). Separate from this project, it is anticipated that the federal government will propose and adopt a complementary network of resources within federal waters. It is important to note, however, that the federal project is not guaranteed to be implemented, and that state project is not contingent on the federal project being approved. Therefore, the primary focus of this environmental document rests on the direct impacts of the state project only. However, the overall impacts of both projects are described in Chapter 5, to analyze the potential cumulative effects of both the state phase and the federal phase.

The proposed regulatory changes listed here represent the State waters portion of the project. These proposed Changes establish ten State Marine Reserves, where it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes, and two State Marine Conservation Areas, where the recreational and/or commercial take of certain species would be permitted (Figure 3-1).

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The State water area within the proposed project is approximately ~~114~~ **132** square nautical miles, or 19 percent of State waters within the project area. The total area within the proposed project and subsequent Federal waters phase is approximately ~~279~~ **322** square nautical miles, or 25 percent of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

In this area it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes.

- The southern tip of the Island (33° 27.9' N. lat., 119° 02.2' W. long.) northward along the mean high tide line to
- The eastern point of the Island (33° 28.5' N. lat., 119° 01.7' W. long.).
- From that point extending due east offshore to latitude 33° 28.5' N., longitude 118° 58.2' W..

- Then along the 3 nautical mile offshore boundary to a point at 33° 24.9' N. lat. 119° 02.2' W. long.
- Then due north to the southern tip of the island

2. Anacapa Island State Marine Reserve

In this area it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes.

Proposed boundaries:

- Arch Rock (34° 01.2' N. lat., 119° 21' W. long.) westward along the mean high water line to
- the western point of Middle Island (Frenchys Cove, 34° 00.6' N. lat., 119° 24.6' W. long.).
- From that point extending due north to a line approximately three miles offshore at latitude 34° 04' N, 119° 24.6' W. long.
- Then east to 34° 04' N. lat. 119° 21' W. long. Then due south to the origin at Arch Rock.

3. Anacapa Island State Marine Conservation Area.

In this area all take of marine species is prohibited except the commercial take of lobster and the recreational take of lobster and pelagic finfish.

Proposed boundaries:

- The eastern point of West Island (Frenchy's Cove, 34° 00.6' N. lat., 119° 24.6' W. long.)
- westward along the mean high water line to the western point of West Island (34° 00.8' N. lat., 119° 26.7' W. long.).
- From that point extending due north to a line approximately three miles offshore at latitude 34° 04' N , 119° 26.7' W. long.
- Then east to 34° 04' N. lat., 119° 24.6' W. long. Then due south to the origin.

Additional regulations:

- No net or trap may be used in waters less than 20 feet deep off the Anacapa Islands commonly referred to as Anacapa Island.
- A brown pelican fledgling area is designated from the mean high tide mark seaward to a water depth of 20 fathoms (120 feet) on the north side of West Anacapa Island between a line extending 345° magnetic off Portuguese Rock to a line extending 345° magnetic off the western edge of Frenchy's Cove, a distance of approximately 4,000 feet. No person except department employees

or employees of the National Park Service in the performance of their official duties shall enter this area during the period January 1 to October 31.

4. Scorpion Anchorage, Santa Cruz Island, State Marine Reserve

In this area it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes.

Proposed boundaries:

- The point inshore of Little Scorpion Rock (34° 02.8' N. lat., 119° 32.8' W. long.)
- Westward along the mean high water line to the northeast side of Potato Harbor (34° 02.9' N. lat., 119° 35.5' W. long.).
- From that point extending due north to a line approximately three miles offshore at latitude 34° 06.2' N , 119° 35.3' W. long.
- Then east to 34.06° N. lat., 119° 32.8' W. long.
- Then due south to the origin.

5. Painted Cave, Santa Cruz Island, State Marine Conservation Area

In this area all take of marine species is prohibited except the recreational take of lobster and pelagic finfish.

Proposed boundaries:

- A point approximately one mile east of Painted Cave (34° 04' N. lat., 119° 51' W. long.)
- westward along the mean high water line
- To a point approximately one mile west of Painted Cave (34° 04.5' N. lat., 119° 53' W. long.)
- From that point extending due north to a line one mile offshore at 34° 05.2' N. lat., 119° 53' W. long.
- Then east to 34° 05 N. lat, 119° 51 W. long.
- Then due south to the origin.

6. Gull Island, Santa Cruz Island, State Marine Reserve

In this area it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes.

Proposed boundaries:

- Morse Point (33° 58' N. lat., 119° 51' W. long.) eastward along the mean high water line

- To an unnamed point at 33° 57.7' N. lat., 119° 48' W.
- From that point extending due south to a line approximately three miles offshore at latitude 33° 55.2' N
- Due west off Morse point to a line at longitude 119° 53' W, 119° 53' W. long.
- Then due north to 33° 58'N. lat., 119° 53' W. long.
- Then due east to the origin at Morse Pt.

7. Carrington Point, Santa Rosa Island, State Marine Reserve

In this area it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes.

Proposed boundaries:

- The pier in Bechers Bay (34° 00.5' N. lat., 120° 02.8' W. long.) extending due east to a line at longitude 120° 01' W.
- The reserve extends due north along longitude 120° 01' W. To a line approximately one and one half miles offshore of Carrington Point at latitude 34° 04' N., 120° 01' W. long.
- Then due north along longitude 120° 01' W. To a line approximately one and one half miles offshore of Carrington Point at latitude 34° 04' N., 120° 01' W. long.
- Then west to 34° 04' N. lat., 120° 05.2' W. long.
- Then south to the shoreline at 34° 01.3N. lat., 120° 05.2' W. long.

8. Skunk Point, Santa Rosa Island, State Marine Reserve

In this area it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes.

Proposed boundaries:

- Skunk point (33° 59' N. lat., 119° 58.8' W. long.) southward along the mean high water line to
- Abalone Rocks (33° 57.1' N. lat., 119° 58.2' W. long.).
- From that point extending due east offshore to a line at longitude 119° 58' W
- Then north to 33° 50' N. lat., 119° 58.8' W. long.
- Then west to the origin at Skunk Pt.

9. South Point, Santa Rosa Island, State Marine Reserve

In this area it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes.

Proposed boundaries:

- South Point (33° 53.8' N. lat., 120° 06.5' W. long.) westward along the mean high water line to
- An unnamed point at 33° 55' N. lat., 120° 10' W.
- From that point extending due south approximately three miles offshore to a line at latitude 33° 51.4' N
- Then east to 33° 51.4' N. lat., 120° 06.5' W. long.
- Then due north to the origin at South Pt.

10. Harris Point, San Miguel Island, State Marine Reserve

In this area it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes.

Proposed boundaries::

- Cardwell Point (34° 01.8' N. lat., 120° 18.4' W. long.) westward along the mean high water line to
- The east corner of Cuyler Harbor (34° 02.9' N. lat., 120° 20.2' W. long.).
- From that point directly to the northwest corner of Cuyler Harbor (34° 03.5' N. lat., 120° 21.3' W. long.), leaving Cuyler Harbor open to fishing.
- From that point northward and westward along the mean high water line to the Marker Poles in Simonton Cove (34° 03.1' N. lat., 120° 23.3' W. long.).
- From that point extending due north approximately three miles offshore to a line at latitude 34° 06' N
- Then east to 34° 06' N. lat., 120° 18.4' W. long.
- Then due south to the origin.

Additional regulations:

- Boating is permitted at San Miguel Island except west of a line drawn between Judith Rock and Castle Rock where boats are prohibited closer than 300 yards from shore. Boats may be anchored overnight only at Tyler Bight and Cuyler Harbor. Boats traveling within 300 yards of shoreline or anchorages shall operate with a minimum amount of noise and shall not exceed speeds of five miles per hour. Landing is allowed on San Miguel Island by permit only at the

designated landing beach in Cuyler Harbor. No person shall have access to all other offshore rocks and islands in the reserve.

1. Notwithstanding the 300-yard boating closure between Judith Rock and Castle Rock, the following shall apply:

a. Boats may approach San Miguel Island no nearer than 100 yards from shore during the period(s) from March 15 through April 30, and October 1 through December 15; and

b. Boats operated by commercial sea urchin boat operators who have been issued permits by the department to take sea urchins from the Point Bennett area of San Miguel Island may enter any waters of the 300-yard area between Judith Rock and Castle Rock for the purpose of fishing sea urchins during the period(s) March 15 through April 30, and October 1 through December 15.

2. The department may rescind permission for boats to enter waters within 300 yards between Judith Rock and Castle Rock upon finding that impairment to the island marine mammal resource is imminent. Immediately following such closure, the department will request the commission to hear, at its regularly scheduled meeting, presentation of documentation supporting the need for such closure.

11. Richardson Rock, San Miguel Island, State Marine Reserve

In this area it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes.

Proposed boundaries are straight lines connecting the following points:

- 34° 08.4' N. lat., 120° 34.2' W. long.,
- 34° 08.4' N. lat., 120° 28.2' W. long.,
- 34° 03.6' N. lat., 120° 28.2' W. long.,
- 34° 03.6' N. lat., 120° 34.2' W. long

12. Judith Rock, San Miguel Island, State Marine Reserve

In this area it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes.

Proposed boundaries:

- Judith Rock (34° 01.5' N. lat., 120° 25.3' W. long.)
- westward along the mean high water line to a point inshore of the wash rock in Adams Cove (34° 01.9' N. lat., 120° 26.5' W. long.).

- From that point extending due south approximately three miles offshore to a line at latitude 33° 58.5' N
- Then east to 33.5° 08.5' W. long., 120° 25.3' W. long.
- Then due north to the origin at Judith Rock.

13. Repeal Existing Ecological Reserves

The Final regulation change repeals the existing Ecological Reserves at Santa Barbara, Anacapa, and San Miguel islands. These areas were originally established to provide added protection to certain species. The proposed project includes the same or similar habitats with increased restrictions on take and thus the existing regulations would be an unnecessary duplication. Where necessary, specific existing regulations (such as a seasonal closure to protect the brown pelican fledgling area on Anacapa Island) are included in the proposed project as part of the new Marine Protected Area (MPA) network (Table 3-1). This change is intended to simplify the overall network, facilitate understanding of the new regulations, and eliminate unnecessary duplication.

3.2 Alternatives

In addition to the proposed project, five spatial alternatives are provided. These alternatives are described in detail in Appendix 5. The alternatives are also split into an initial State waters phase and subsequent Federal phase. The alternatives are reviewed and evaluated in Chapter 6. Recommendations for the changes to the boundaries of the Cowcod Conservation Area are provided as sub-alternatives.

3.2.1 Alternative 1

Alternative 1 establishes a smaller network of Marine Protected Areas than the proposed project. This alternative uses the “areas of overlap” developed as possible MPA sites by the Marine Reserves Working Group. It establishes nine State Marine Reserves where it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes. The State water area in Alternative 1 is approximately 69 ~~79~~ square nautical miles, or 12 percent of State waters within the Sanctuary. The proposed MPAs in both the State and Federal waters phase encompass approximately 12 percent, or ~~444~~ **162** square nautical miles, of the Sanctuary (Figure 3-2). This alternative attempts to limit potential impacts to consumptive users.

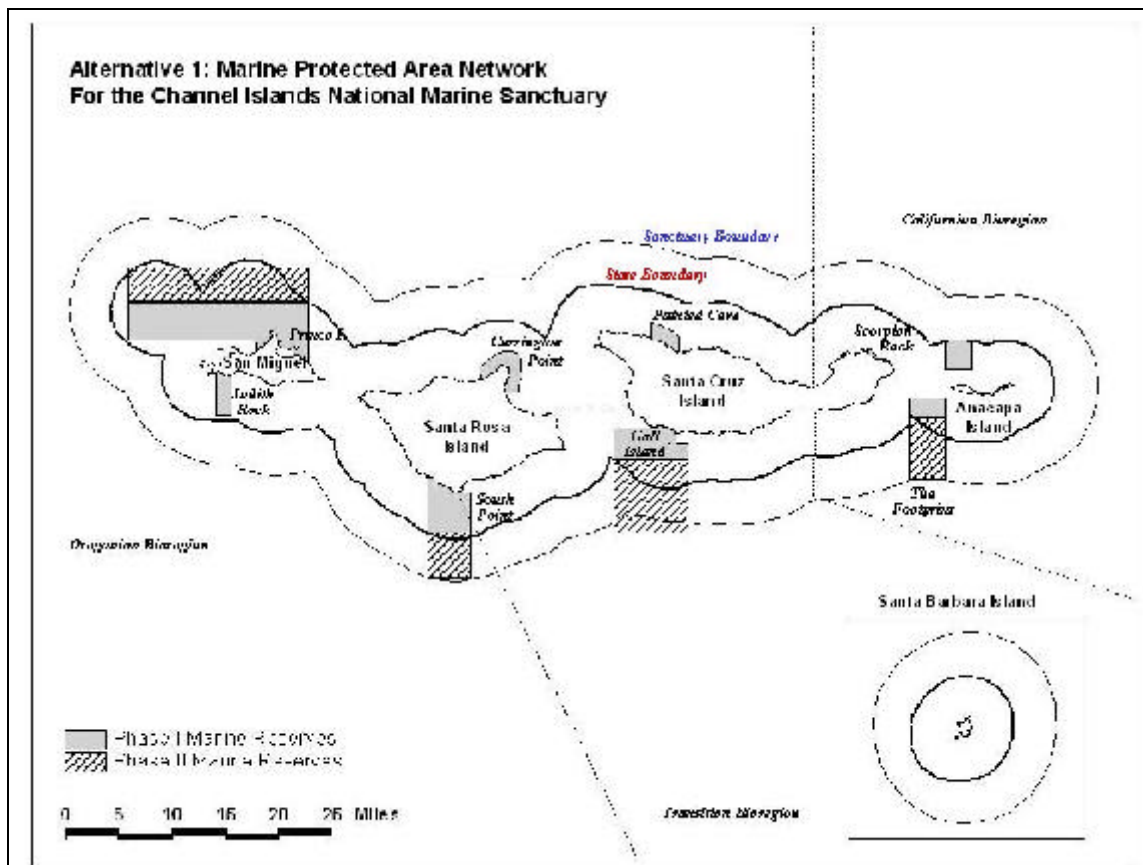


Figure 3-2. Marine Protected Area Network Alternative 1.

3.2.2 Alternative 2

Alternative 2 uses a reserve system developed by sectors of the Santa Barbara commercial fishing community. It establishes eight State Marine Reserves where it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes and three State Marine Conservation Areas where the recreational and/or commercial take of certain species is permitted. The State water area in Alternative 2 is approximately 72 ~~83~~ square nautical miles, or 12 percent of State waters within the Sanctuary. The combined State waters and Federal Waters phase encompasses approximately 14 percent, or 164 ~~185~~ square nautical miles, of the Sanctuary (Figure 3-3). This alternative attempts to limit immediate and potential impacts to consumptive users. It also uses more State Marine Conservation Areas to provide some protection to key species while still allowing take of others.

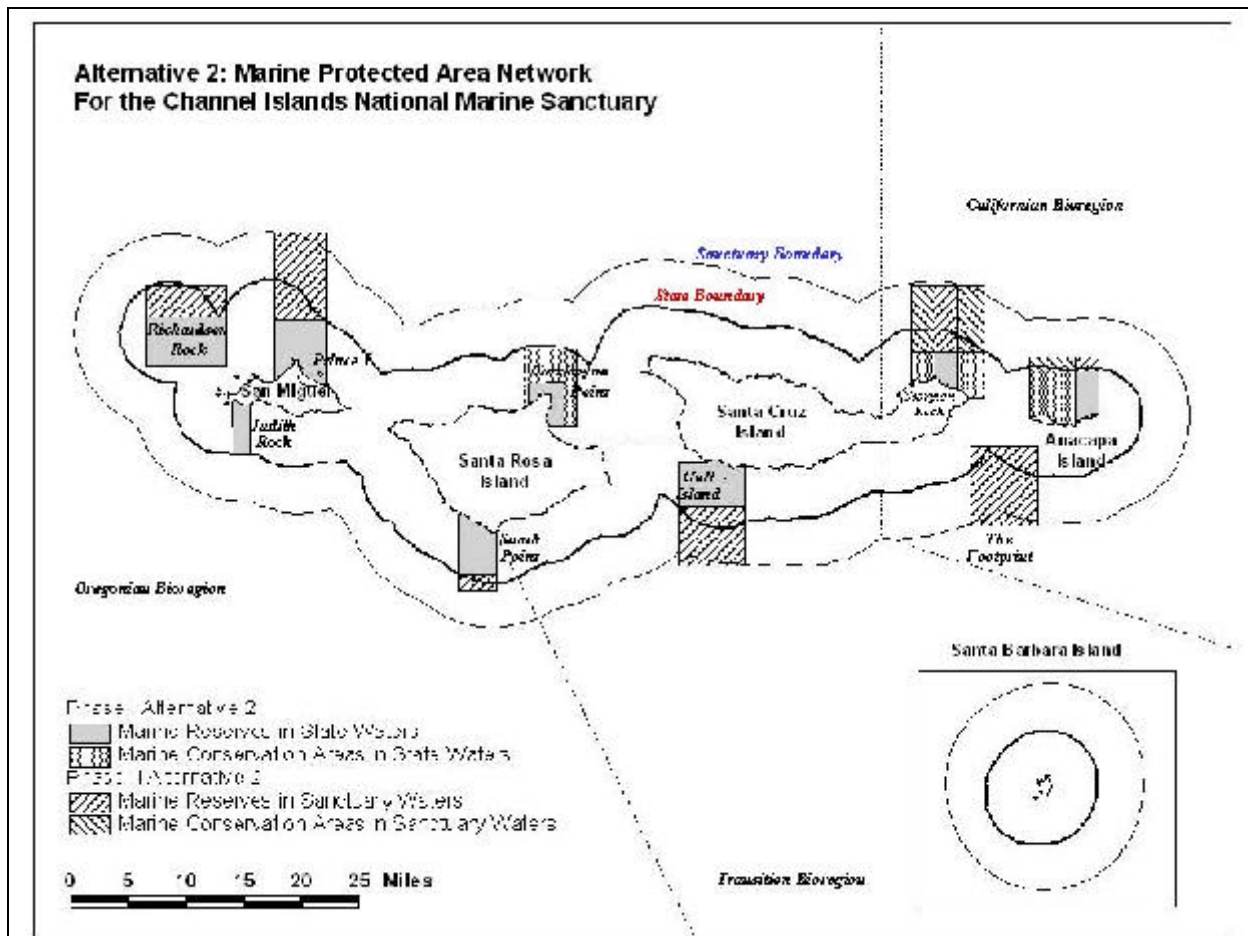


Figure 3-3. Marine Protected Area Network Alternative 2.

Phasing Sub-Option to Alternative 2

Alternative 2 includes a sub-option of Phasing. There are four types of performance criteria (Administrative, Monitoring, Biological and Timed) that can be adopted separately or in any combination with the phasing sub-option. The following describes these four phasing options and suggests which portions of the project would be implemented in the first and subsequent phases.

Administrative Performance

After implementation of the Phase I network and the five years that elapse after actual closure, all agencies with regulatory or enforcement roles within the CINMS shall have demonstrated their commitment to enforcement, monitoring, assessment, evaluation, and administration consistent with the MRWG Implementation Recommendation of these Phase I marine reserves, including adequate funding and staff to do the requisite tasks. The Department or responsible agencies shall develop the essential fishery information for capacity goal planning consistent with the Commission's Restricted Access Policy.

Monitoring Performance

Additional monitoring sites would be established at the Judith Rock, South Point, and Carrington Point reserve sites. These additional monitoring sites would be added to the Channel Islands National Park Kelp Forest Monitoring Program and included in annual monitoring. Adequate baseline data shall be gathered at all near shore reserve sites prior to reserve establishment.

Biological Performance

After five years of total closure in the no-take zones, monitoring and evaluation should begin to show evidence that the kinds of benefits experienced in marine reserves worldwide (i.e., increases in biodiversity, maximum size of fish, population density and total biomass) are appearing in the selected reserve sites, at least for the species that have appropriate age at maturity and more rapid growth rate than the long-lived, slow-reproducing rockfish assemblage. Absent evidence of beneficial results, the Department and Commission, together with the Sanctuary and any appropriate scientific advisors, should re-evaluate the placement of these reserves and modify them adaptively in an attempt to improve their performance.

Timed Phasing

Proposed areas would be adopted and implemented in incremental stages on a predetermined timeline established by the Commission without administrative or monitoring performance contingencies. Proposed areas would be adopted on a predetermined timeline to allow fishing businesses the opportunity to adjust to the changes.

No Phasing

Under this option the proposed areas would be adopted and implemented with no time for fisheries to develop a Capacity Reduction Plan or use an incremental approach to allow fisheries to adjust to reduction of fishing grounds. If the option of phasing is not used the agencies should prepare a large-scale buy out program. Any future reserve recommendation that has economic impacts over five percent economic impacts should be phased to allow Fisheries to adjust to the reduction in harvest grounds.

Proposed Phase I areas:

Richardson Rock

Entire proposed area.

Harris Point

Harris Point to Orin Peak

Judith Rock

Entire Proposed area.

Carrington Point

Beacon Reef to Pier in Bechers Bay

South Point

South Point to Chickasaw

Gull Island

Morse Point to Laguna Canyon

Scorpion

Entire proposed area

Anacapa Island

Middle Reef to East End

Proposed Phase II Marine Reserves and Conservation Areas:

Harris Point

Harris point to Marker Poles in Simonton Cove

Carrington Point

Additional Western area at Carrington Point

South Point

Additional Western area at South Point

Gull Island

Additional Western area at Gull Island

Carrington Point Conservation area

Conservation areas East and West of Scorpion Marine Reserve

Anacapa Island Conservation area

3.2.3 Alternative 3

Alternative 3 was developed as a potential reserve network during the Marine Reserves Working Group planning process, but the MRWG did not reach full consensus. It establishes eight State Marine Reserves where it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes. The State water area in Alternative 3 is approximately ~~89~~ **102** square nautical miles, or 15 percent of State waters within the Sanctuary. The proposed MPAs in the State and Federal phases combined encompass approximately 21 percent, or ~~234~~ **267** square nautical miles, of the Sanctuary (Figure 3-4). This alternative attempts to limit potential impacts to consumptive users.

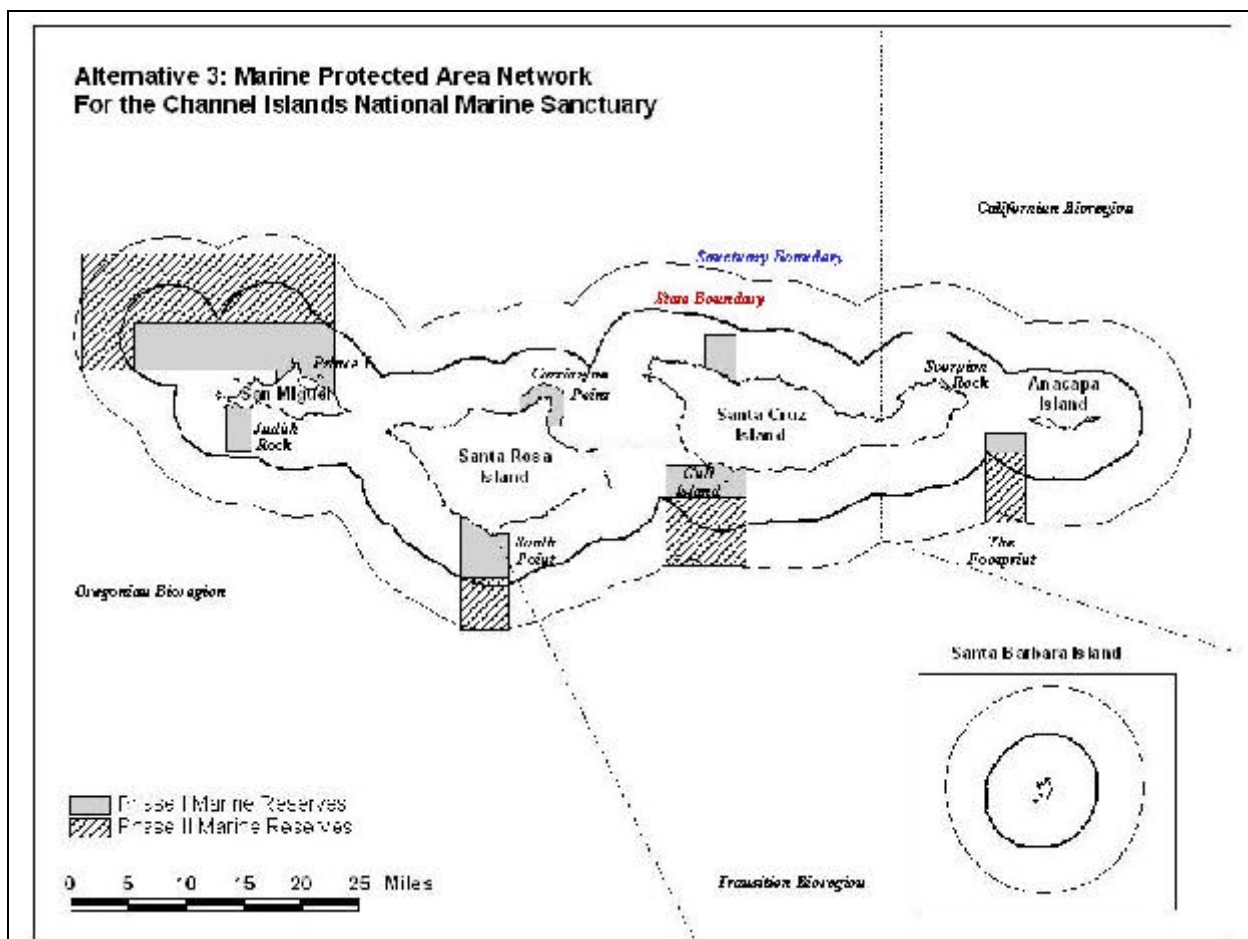


Figure 3-4. Marine Protected Area Network Alternative 3.

3.2.4 Alternative 4

Alternative 4 establishes a larger network of Marine Protected Areas than the proposed project. This alternative uses the “areas of overlap” developed as possible MPA sites by the Marine Reserves Working Group with the addition of areas suggested by some members to complete a network. It establishes ten State Marine Reserves where it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes. The State water area in Alternative 4 is approximately 420 **138** square nautical miles, or 20 percent of State waters within the Sanctuary. The proposed MPAs in the combined State and Federal waters phases encompass approximately 29 percent or 340 **367** square nautical miles of the Sanctuary (Figure 3-5). This alternative attempts to increase the overall protection of various habitats compared to the proposed project.

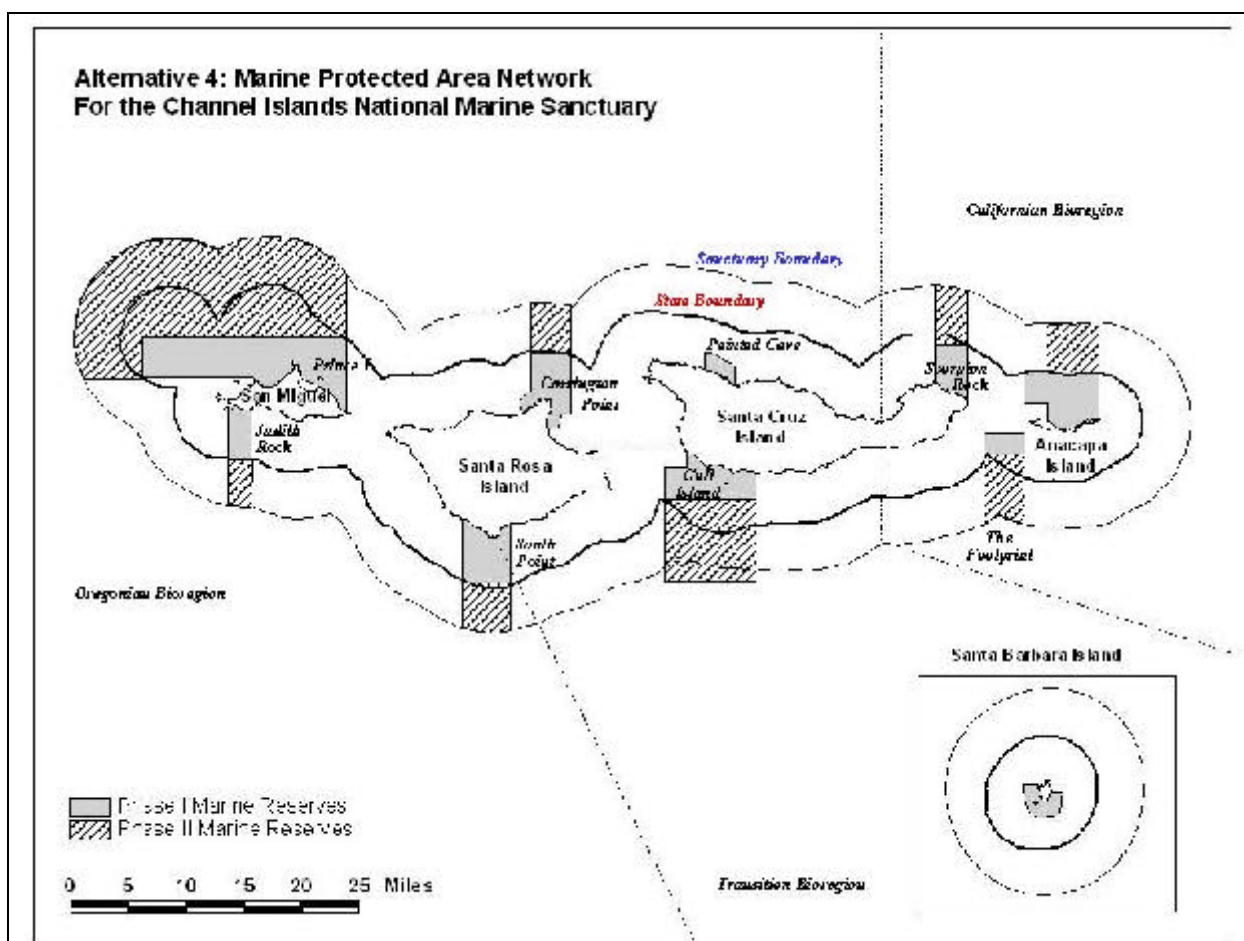


Figure 3-5. Marine Protected Area Network Alternative 4.

3.2.5 Alternative 5

Alternative 5 uses a network of reserves developed during the Marine Reserves Working Group planning process altered after the process to reduce the overall area. It establishes ten State Marine Reserves where it is unlawful to damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes. The State water area in Alternative 5 is approximately ~~137~~ **155** square nautical miles, or 23 percent of State waters within the Sanctuary. The proposed MPAs in the combined State and Federal waters phases encompass approximately 34 percent, or ~~390~~ **425** square nautical miles of the Sanctuary (Figure 3-6). It attempts to increase the overall protection of various habitats compared to the proposed project.

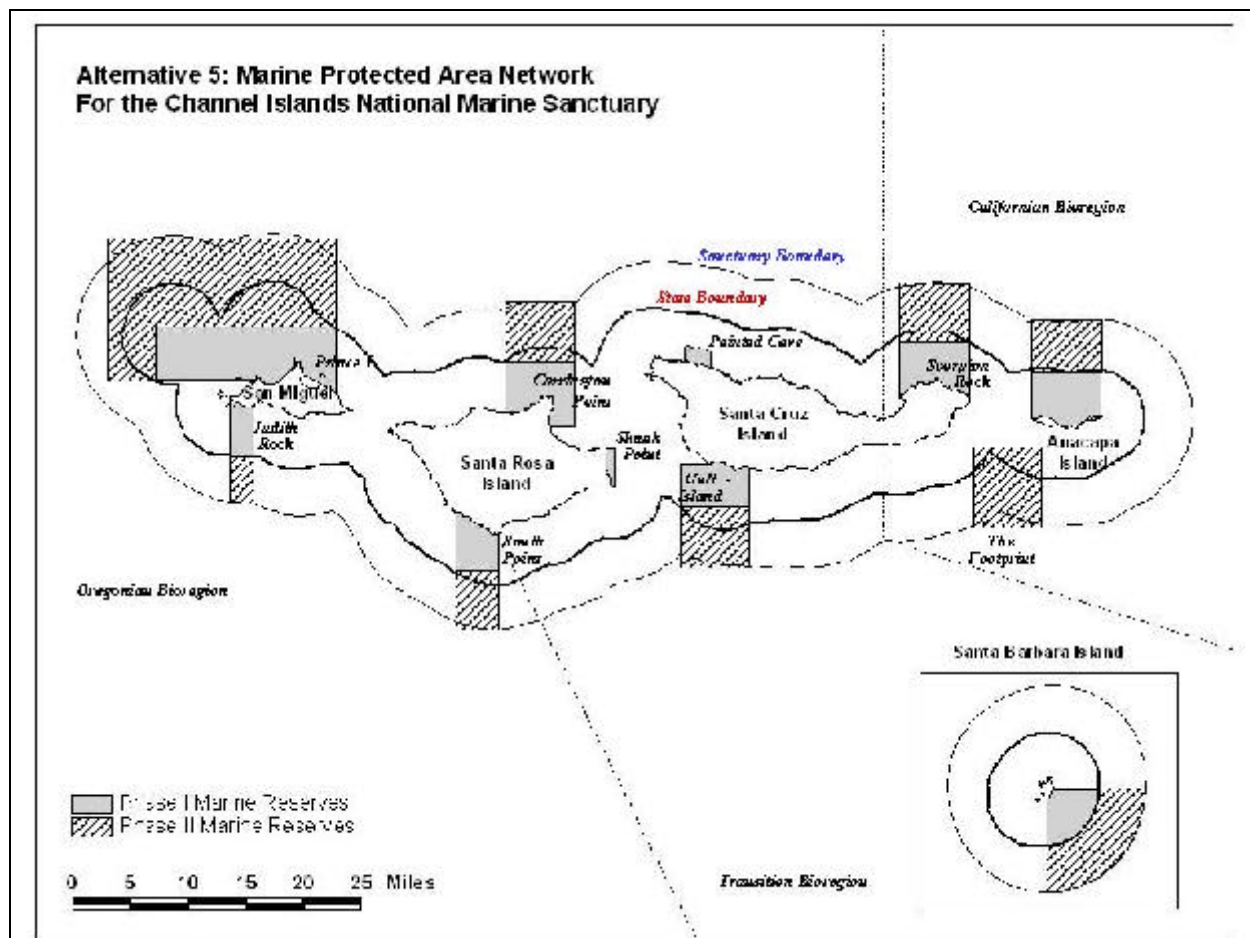


Figure 3-6. Marine Protected Area Network Alternative 5.

3.2.6 Alternative 6 Defer Decision

Alternative 6 would defer decision on MPAs within the Sanctuary to the Marine Life Protection Act (Chap. 1015, Stats. 1999) (MLPA) public process. The MLPA requires the Department to draft a master plan for MPAs, including, but not limited to, recommendations for alternative networks of MPAs. These recommendations must include a preferred siting alternative based on specific goals. The master plan is due to the Commission on or before January 1, 2003 **2005** (Appendix 1).

3.2.7 Alternative 7 No Action

The no-action alternative would continue the existing Marine Protected areas in the Sanctuary with no modifications (Appendix 1).